Big Haul in Bonn

The British were not the only ones preoccupied with spies last week. In West Germany, newspapers devoted banner headlines to Bonn's latest haul: a lady described as "Moscow's No. 1 agent," and a spy ring that had, in effect, converted secret West German Foreign Office and NATO communication systems into party lines—with extensions in the Kremlin.

Quick

Sütterlin: All for love

The tip-off came early in the week when a high-ranking KGB (the Soviet CIA) field man decided it was time to come in from the cold. The officer, Lt. Col. Yevgeny Yevgenyevich Runge, contacted American diplomats in Berlin and defected to the West. Runge was so important (he had been engaged in Soviet intelligence work in Germany for years) that American agents skipped the usual initial security checks and hustled him straight aboard a U.S.-bound plane.

Hot Tips: The interrogation began en route to Washington. The information that Runge had was so hot that the CIA radioed it back to Germany direct from the plane. The tips from the spy in the sky sent West German authorities into action. Within hours, police had arrested Leonore Sütterlin, 39, a secretary at Bonn's Foreign Office; her husband, Heinz, 43; Leopold Pieschel, 40, a janitor in the French Embassy; his wife, Klara; and her brother, Martin Marggraf, 41, a part-time waiter often employed at diplomatic functions.

As the story unfolded, Leonore Sütterlin turned out to be the most important—and most tragic—figure in the case. Under questioning, her good-looking husband readily admitted that he had been sent to Bonn in 1957 by the Soviets with instructions to marry a secretary with access to important information and to convert her into a spy. Sütterlin zeroed in on Leonore, a senior Foreign Office secretary in charge of the department's personnel and administrative files.

Heinz Sütterlin followed the plan to the letter. He courted Leonore and married her in 1960. Two years later, she began bringing secret documents home during her lunch break for him to photograph and relay by courier—sent, perhaps, by Runge—to the East Zone.

At first, Leonore seemed to take her arrest in stride. But she collapsed when authorities finally convinced her that her husband had married her on orders from Moscow. The next day, guards at Cologne's Klingelpütz prison found Leonore Sütterlin hanging from a window sill by a piece of her pajamas. "A broken heart drove her to suicide," an investigator said.

The other three spies made almost as big a dent in Bonn's security as Leonore. Pieschel, according to German authorities, stole a key to the military liaison office in the French Embassy in 1958 and regularly supplied the Russians with films of all documents marked "secret" or "NATO secret." His wife turned out to be the smallest fish in the catch. But Frau Pieschel's brother, Marggraf, a waiter who spent his free time planting listening devices in important places (one of his microphones was found in the conference room of the French Embassy), more than made up for her relative inactivity.

Furor: The arrests and suicide stirred up quite a furor in Germany. Commented a columnist in the Rheinische Post: "The case contains all the aspects of modern espionage: bribery and seduction, listening devices in the vest pocket, cameras the size of matchboxes, meetings in West and East Berlin—and the usual gaps in Western security. It's surely no secret to anyone that the Federal Republic is still the favorite playground for spies."

That, of course, was the understatement of the week. The West Germans themselves estimate that there are roughly 6,000 professional spies and 10,000 "helpers" working for the East Germans and Soviets on West German soil. And if that isn't enough of a challenge, Bonn's counterespionage experts have to put up with sizable Western intelligence teams operating in the country, too. "It's hard enough keeping track of what the enemy is doing," sighed one frustrated German official last week, "but with our friends, it's impossible."

Soviet Defector Is Linked To Talbot Safe House

BALTIMORE SUN
OCT 29 1967

Only the CIA knows what really went on at Ashford Farms

By H.-JOOST POLAK
[Salisbury Bureau of The Sun]

Bellevue, Md., Oct. 28 — A huge red brick mansion near this waterfront Hamlet in Talbot county may be the "safe house" to which the Central Intelligence Agency brought a high ranking defector from the Soviet intelligence service two weeks ago for a long "debriefing session."

Ashford Farms, a 100-acre estate acquired by the Government about 1950, was used in February, 1962, as a hideaway for the downed U.-2 pilot, Francis Gary Powers, after his return to the United States.

Exposed Spy Rings

Informed sources in Washington say that either Ashford Farms or a similar facility in northern Virginia is likely to have been the site chosen for the interrogation of Evge y Evgenievich Runge, a defector from the agency's Soviet counterpart, the KGB.

Colonel Runge's defection in West Berlin earlier this month exposed two major spy rings in West Geermany.

The Washington sources say Colonel Runge, 39, and his wife and son were flown to the United States on the weekend of October 14 - 15, then whisked away to a hiding place.

Residents of this area say a "meeting" was held at Ashford Farms on October 15, and one gas station attendant in nearby Royal Oak, says he counted "fourteen or fifteen" automobiles with Government or District of Columbia license tags heading toward the estate that afternoon.

The estate, near the end of Benoni Point on the Ferryneck Peninsula that juts into the Tred Avon River across from Oxford, has been a source of mystery since the Government bought it from Charles S. Todd for a reported $65,000.

Known As "The Factory"

The three - story, fourteen-room house is one of the few large brick buildings in the area, and is known as "the factory" because of the imposing facade it presents to passing watermen.

Neighbors say it was built in 1930 at a cost of over $75,000 by Bruce Naylor, who then owned the property, and was bought during the 1940's by the boxer, Gene Tunney in a sale that was later disallowed by the county circuit court.

The house, bristling with chimneys and aerials, sits back in pine woods on a circular gravel drive. Its entrance is guarded by a chain-link fence and gate on which a red, white, and blue shield advises that it is Government property and warns against trespassing.

A huge German shepherd named Eric is the only apparent sentinel. Two cars, one with Maryland plates, and one with District of Columbia tags, are parked beside the house.

Refuses To Answer

A Negro, apparently the caretaker, is the only person visible on the estate. He refuses to answer questions, and says there is no one else in the house.

The CIA will not comment "one way or the other" on Ashford Farms or its possible connection with the Runge case and there is little to be learned about the estate from its neighbors.

They say the house is usually deserted except for the caretaker, whom they identify as William Jenkins, of Royal Oak, and a second caretaker named Philip Logan.

ESPIONAGE

The Spies That Were Left Behind

When a major Russian spy defects to the West, the CIA is usually so delighted that it can hardly wait to tell the story to the world press. The resulting headlines are expected to be a damaging blow to Soviet prestige in general and the KGB in particular. Last week, however, with an important new defector on its hands, the agency kept its mouth shut. It had nothing to say—not even to the State Department—when the West German government revealed that Evgeny Evgenievich Runge, who held the high rank of lieutenant colonel in the KGB, had made contact with the CIA in West Berlin and asked for asylum. Apparently piqued that Bonn had broken the story, the CIA would not even tell Runge's age (39) or how many members of his family had accompanied him into exile (his wife and eight-year-old son). Nor would it admit the fact that Runge had been taken to a "safe house," somewhere in the U.S., for extensive "debriefing."

Blown Covers. No such secrecy was evident in West Germany, which is apparently the most spy-crowded nation in Europe (an estimated 5,400 Communist agents alone are operating there.) Bonn, to be sure, did not say very much about Runge, probably because it did not know very much. But it was bursting with news about the spies he had left behind. Operating since 1955 as a travelling jukebox salesman, the KGB colonel had been in charge of at least two spy rings, and he blew their covers when he left. The police moved in immediately. Government Prosecutor Ludwig Martin announced solemnly that "this is the most important case of espionage in the history of the Federal Republic."

Runge's rings were both small, but both were extremely effective. One consisted of Leopold Pieschel, 44, a messenger in the French military mission, and his brother-in-law, Martin Marggraf, 41, a waiter whose specialty was bugging diplomatic receptions and dinners at such places as the presidential villa and Chancellor Kiesinger's Palais Schaumburg. While Marggraf planted mini-microphones, Pieschel systematically photographed secret NATO documents from the French commandant's safe—the key to which he had stolen, duplicated and returned in 1958.

Documents for Lunch. The other ring, operated in the Foreign Ministry. It was run by Heinz Suetterlin, 43, a freelance photographer, and his wife Leonore, 39, a plumpish woman who was the personal secretary of the director of the ministry's administrative Zb Section—where the files contain personnel records, incoming dispatches, the complete Allied contingency plans for the defense of Berlin, and the West German diplomatic code. Leonore had access to everything. One by one, she stuffed papers in her purse and took them home at lunchtime for a quick snap from Heinz's ready camera. In five years, the couple delivered copies of more than 1,500 secret documents to the Russians. The ministry has had to switch to a new diplomatic code.

Leonore, apparently, had done her spying mostly out of love. West German investigators discovered that Heinz, a trained Russian agent, had been sent to Bonn in 1959 with the specific assignment of wooing a highly placed Foreign Office employee; Leonore turned out to be his pigeon. When her police questioners told her why her husband had married her, it was more than she could take. She hanged herself in her cell at Cologne's Klingelpütz prison.

Bonn Experts Say Defector Was One of

By DAVID BINDER
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Oct. 25 — Lieut. Col. Yevgeny V. Runge of the Soviet State Security Committee (K.G.B.) who defected to the United States, was described today in the Bonn intelligence community as the most successful Communits agent known to have genetrated secrets of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Colonel Runge, 39 years old, defected Oct. 10 in West Berlin with his East German wife, Valentina, and their 8-year-old son. They are in the Washington vicinity undergoing interrogation by American and West German Intelligence officers.

According to intelligence sources here, Colonel Runge's biggest coup was to obtain a virtually complete set of Western allied plans for dealing with all crisis situations in isolated West Berlin.

Photocopies of more than a dozen of Colonel Runge's passes, identity cards and documents were shown today. He had brought the documents with him.

The information was made available to newsmen to counter Soviet and East German allegations that the defection was a hoax.

'A Stupid Joke'

Last Sunday Tass, the official Soviet press agency, said in a dispatch from Moscow that the Runge story was "invented," "a lie from beginning to end," and "a stupid joke." Yesterday the East German Interior Ministry called a news conference to declare that "Eugen Runge" was an East German citizen with a "criminal record" who disappeared with his family Oct. 10.

The Colonel was reported to have received copies of the crisis plans through Heinz Sutterlin, 43, whose wife, Leonore, 39, was a secretary to a senior Foreign Ministry official in Bonn.

Mrs. Sutterlin, whose Soviet Code name was given as Lola, was said to have taken the documents home from the office safe. Her husband, who nominally worked as a photographer, allegedly made copies of the documents and conveyed them to Colonel Runge.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutterlin were arrested within five hours after Colonel Runge's defection. She hanged herself four days later in her cell when she learned that her husband married her in 1962 on instructions from Moscow.

Intelligence officers said Colonel Runge was trained for six years in the Soviet Union before being sent in 1955 to West Germany as an "illegal" agent—that is, without any connection with the Soviet Embassy in Bonn or with other open Soviet organizations.

He was said to have been assigned first to run a small ring of agents in Bad Godesberg whose target was the French Embassy. Penetration of the French Embassy was allegedly effected by Leopold Pieschel, 44, one of the five persons rounded up at the time of the colonel's defection on suspicion of being Soviet agents. Pieschel was said to have obtained a key to a safe in the embassy and to have lifted NATO and other secret papers.

Colonel Runge's work with Pieschel was described as so satisfactory to his espionage superiors that he was awarded the Order of the Red Star, third class, on Dec. 18, 1964, by Vladimir Y. Semichastny, then the chief of the K. G. B. The spy took a copy of the award certificate with him to the West.

Team Proved Valuable

According to the Western sources, he was assigned to run—that is, manage—the Sütterlins several years ago and as their material became more and more valuable, he was told to concentrate on them.

He has told his interrogators that he was pulled off the job early this year, recalled to Moscow and prepared for a new assignment. He was sent to East Germany to train 30 new German agents for the K.G.B.

Conrad Ahlers, West German Government's deputy spokesman, said the training school was operated without the knowledge of the East German State Security Service.

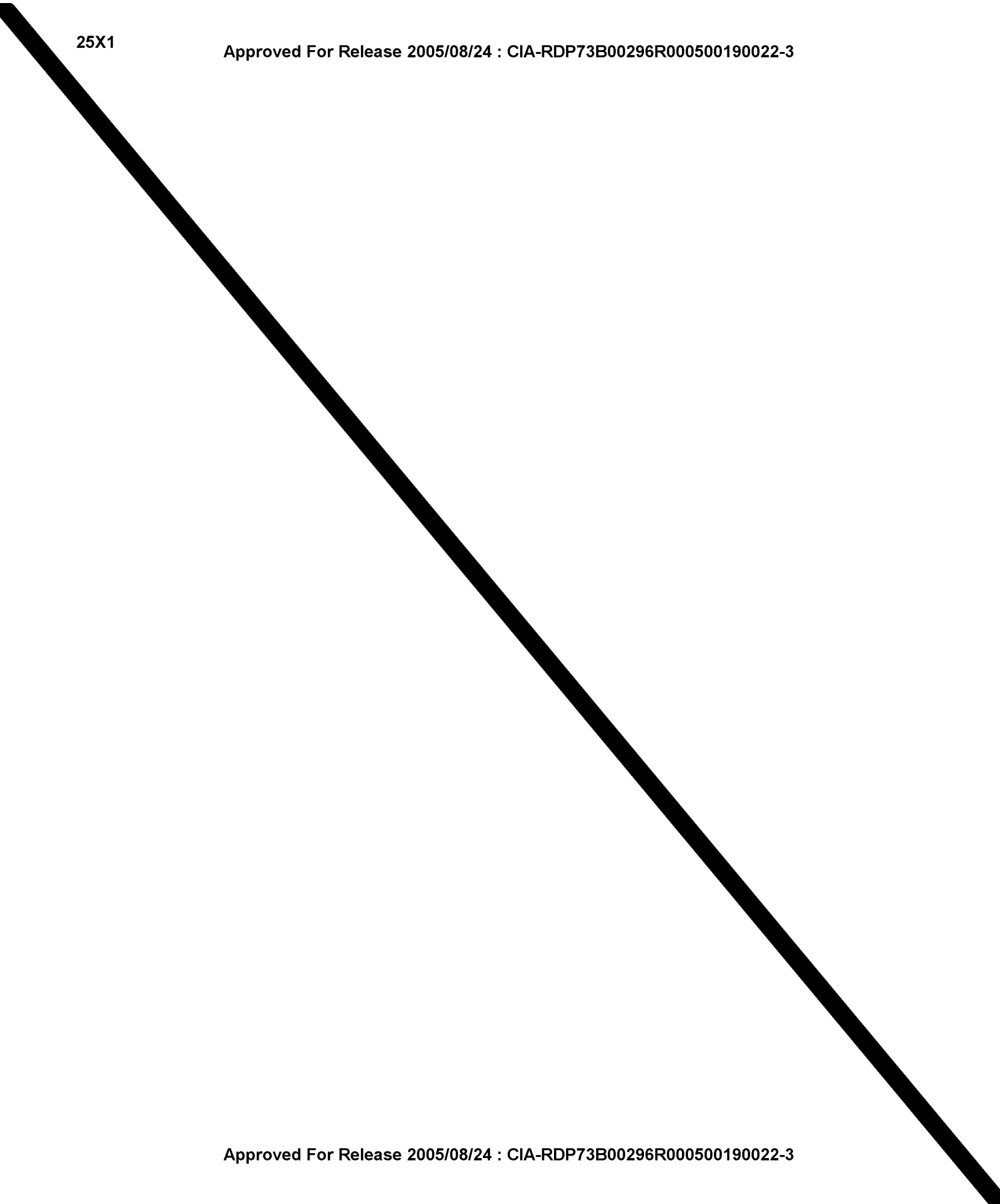
tion Law Are A

hysical or mental health c
ny existing children."

Offi This social clause, as it wa
decide alled during the parliamentar
learne ebates, allows consideration o
ment vercrowding in a large fam
his w y, of inadequate housing, o
behinc rain on the mother and othe
tage." oad factors. It was at th

Colonel Runge was a so-called Volga - German, born March 8, 1928, in the Ukrainian village of Novosolenoye. He was sent to Germany toward the end of the war as a forced laborer, served the Soviet occupation army as an interpreter, and was recruited by the M.V.D., the forerunner of the K.G.B. in 1949.

While the exposure of the rings run by Colonel Runge was hailed by Western intelligence officers as "very neat," it was pointed out that the



Approved For Release 2005/08/24 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000500190022-3